New tourism development projects for Orissa

4776. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tourism development projects taken up in the State of Orissa with Central assistance during the last three years;

(b) the amount of Central assistance released for those projects and actual amount spent on these projects during these years;

(c) whether any new tourism development project have been proposed to be taken up in that State in 2003-2004; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) and (b) During the last three years the number of tourism development projects sanctioned in Orissa are as under :—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
2000-01	4	156.90	47.07
2001-02	4	38.05	27.12
2002-03	2	47.50	15.75

Out of these 10 projects, 3 projects have been dropped on the advice of the State Government.

(c) and (d) During 2003-2004, no project has been sanctioned as yet.

Investment in travel and tourism sector

4777. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have invited International entrepreneurs to invest in travel and tourism in view of vast opportunities and Government priority to developing the multi-crore sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) and (b) The Government of India has identified tourism as a high priority industry for investment. 100% Foreign Direct Investment is permitted in the hotels and